



**Sustainable Arlington
An Environment Committee of Envision Arlington**

Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020
Time: 7:30 – 9:00 PM
Location: Remote participation via Zoom

In attendance: Amos Meeks, Brucie Moulton, Len Diggins, Carl Wagner, Tom Ehbrect, Ezekiel Wheeler, Sarah Hill

Minutes

1. Introductions

2. Update from Planning Department

Forum on industrial zoning rescheduled to Monday as a part of the ARB meeting. "Connect Arlington" survey is ending this Friday.

3. Approve November minutes

November minutes available here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/15DTF_Y352JHyljiyeTPXFwJ_j_OjsvtO/view?usp=sharing

Unanimously approved with minor modifications.

4. Vote to co-sponsor AFR's "Building Community Series: Connecting and Engaging."

Event information: <https://www.arlingtonfightsracism.com/event/building-community-series-connecting-engaging-jan-12/>

AFR is a political organization that has run slates in previous elections. Would this be a conflict with our scope? Perhaps we should check with Doug first.

Note that the Town is sponsoring a series of Racial Justice Teach-ins:
<http://ow.ly/idhZ50CMtWz>

Something to consider is increased density proposed along mass ave, which would expose more people to car emissions.

Another issue is unmitigated lead in housing in Arlington that would be more affordable, in addition to oil heat.

There is work that Arlington could do to help people get off of oil in Arlington.

Also issues of affordable housing along alewife brook and in east Arlington being more flood prone.

Approved unanimously with one abstention

5. Act on Mass Transparency Campaign (<https://actonmass.org/>) meetings with state legislators.

Campaign information:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W3ayxUHmv6Um_nJNfxOtbNhmiW9CpViActnHksIMO4s/edit)

6. Yahoo list ends Dec. 15th. Join Sustainable Arlington's new Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/sustainable-arlington>

7. Seeking new Sustainable Arlington leadership

See Leading Sustainable Arlington description:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hKUOb8TVdnsdAD2hyR6pZ03lrNsTbuad/view?usp=sharing>

8. Dec. 5, Gas Leaks & Energy Justice conference report, including citizen science curriculum on gas leaks and trees,

<https://www.northeastern.edu/environmentalhealth/virtual-event-registration-open-energy-justice-in-the-time-of-covid/>

Hope to have a recording available.

9. New business

Solar assisted heat pumps.

- Enhancement on heat pump water heaters, combining with solar. New England Solar Hot water, little penetration but lots of potential. They will be doing more in the coming new year.
- Proposed cost is the same as an in the basement heat pump water heater but less installation, no winter cooling, etc.
- Trialing in MA, doing installations next year.
- Manufacturer is in Britain. These systems are more popular in Europe.
- How forgiving in terms of aiming position? Quite forgiving, could even be on a wall.
- Lose some of the efficiency of solar hot water.
- They've put together a document with more information and drawing and pictures that can be presented at a future meeting.

Recent HEET presentation on geothermal microdistricts:

10. Announcements

Why experts are sounding the alarm about the hidden dangers of gas stoves.

<https://qz.com/1941254/experts-are-sounding-the-alarm-about-the-dangers-of-gas-stoves/>

Find webinars, other online events at <http://www.sustainablearlington.org/>

11. Adjourn